

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER GANDHI COMMENTS ON CIA ACTIVITY

1. THE FOLLWOING ARE EXTRACTS FROM A UPI INTERVIEW
OF PRIME MINISTER GANDHI ON MARCH 11, 1975:

QUESTION: LAST SEPTEMBER AMBASSADOR DANIEL
MOHNIHAN CABLED SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER THAT DIS-
CLOSURE OF THE UNITED STATES ROLE IN THE OVERTHROW OF
PRESIDENT ALLENDE OF CHILE HAD CONFIRMED YOUR "WORST
SUSPICIONS AND GENUINE FEARS." HE ALSO SAID THAT YOU,
MADAM PRIME MINISTER, WERE NOT SURE THAT THE C.I.A.
WOULD NOT BE CONTENT TO SEE OTHERS LIKE YOU OVERTHROWN.
DID HE CORRECTLY ASSESS YOUR FEELING ABOUT THE C.I.A.
INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR AFFAIRS?

PRIME MINISTER: WE CAN ONLY GO BY WHAT THE C.I.A. PEOPLE
THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN WRITING ABOUT THEMSELVES. WE DO NOT
HAVE THE SORT OF SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT THAT CAN GIVE US
THE FULLEST INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING. BUT
WHEN WE LEARN OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN OHTER COUNTRIES -
NOT ONLY IN CHILE BUT IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES - THEN IT
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DOES BECOME A MATTER OF CONCERN.

QUESTION: AT THAT TIME DR. KISSINGER AGREED TO REMOVE ANY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WHOM YOU FELT MIGHT BE INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA. HAS THERE BEEN ANY OCCASION SINCE THAT TIME WHEN YOU HAVE SEEN IT FIT TO..

PRIME MINISTER: AS I SAID, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO PROVE. WE CAN ONLY SAY, WELL, THERE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WHY PEOPLE ARE TAKING INTEREST IN PARTICULAR THINGS AND SO ON.

QUESTION: BUT HAVE YOU SEEN IT FIT TO ASK FOR ANYONE'S REMOVAL. . . ?

PRIME MINISTER: NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

QUESTION: I BELIEVE, LAST SATURDAY IN ROURKELA YOU SAID THAT THE MOVEMENT LET BY J.P. WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY FINANCED. . .

PRIME MINISTER: NO, I DID NOT SAY ANY SUCH THING. I REFERRED TO SOMETHING WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED IN THE ORISSA ASSEMBLY AND HAD LATER APPEARED IN OUR PRESS ALSO - THAT A FOREIGN CHEQUE HAD COME TO THE SARVODAYA SAMITI - I DO NOT RECALL THE FULL NAME - IN ORISSA. THIS MATTER WAS RAISED IN THEIR ASSEMBLY AND I JUST ASKED THE QUESTION WHETHER IT WAS BEING USED FOR WELFARE WORK OF THE ORGANISATION OR FOR ANY OTHER PRUPOSE. I JUST RAISED THIS QUESTION: I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE MONEY HAS GONE.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU CONSIDER THAT AS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT PERHAPS THE C.I.A. MIGHT BE INVOTVED?

PRIME MINISTER: THIS PARTICULAR THING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE C.I.A. THE CHEQUE WAS NOT FROM THE UNITED STATES.

QUESTION: WOULD THERE BE ANYTHING TO MEAN THAT? WHAT CAN MOTIVATE C.I.A. INTO INVOLVEMENT IN THE J.P. MOVEMENT?

PRIME MINISTER: WHAT MOTIVATES THEM TO GET INVOLVED IN OTHER COUNTRIES? TO US IT DOES NOT ALWAYS MAKE SENSE.

QUESTION: (I CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION. BUT THEN I WILL HAVE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CONGRESS.)

WELL, ABOUT C.I.A., CONGRESS HAS RECENTLY HEARD EVIDENCE THAT C.I.A. HAD DRAWN UP ASSASSINATION PLANS FOR HIGH LEVEL PERSONS IN SEVERAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT?

PRIME MINISTER: I THINK SOMETHING CAME IN THE PRESS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION: IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MIGHT HAVE FACILITIES IN THIS COUNTRY?

PRIME MINISTER: YOU WOULD KNOW BETTER.

QUESTION: YOU DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP ON THAT ACCOUNT?

PRIME MINISTER: NO, NO.

QUESTION: OTHERWISE YOU HAVE NO FEARS WHATSOEVER ABOUT POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS? . . .

PRIME MINISTER: I WOULD NOT FEAR THATSORT OF THING.

QUESTION: THIS HAS BECOME A PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

PRIME MINISTER: I MUST SAY THAT I DON'T THINK IT IS THE RIGHT WAY OF DEALING WITH THE SITUATION.

QUESTION: I MUST SAY THAT THAT IS A VERY FINE ANSWER.

A DIPLOMAT HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE BULK OF C.I.A. ACTIVITY IN INDIA, ASSUMING THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING, IS TURNED TOWARDS CHINA AND MUCH OF THE INFORMATION THEY GATHER IS SHARED WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT. IS IT TRUE AND IF IT WERE TRUE, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SAY?

PRIME MINISTER: I DON'T THINK IT IS TRUE. I THINK THAT AFTER THE CHINESE INVASION, WE DID WANT SOME INFORMATION. THAT WAS IN 1962.

QUESTION: BUT AS FAR AS THE CIA JOINING FORCES WITH INDIA TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ON THE CHINESE-TIBET BORDER IS CONCERNED, A FEW YEARS AGO YOU WERE SAYING THERE WAS SOME COOPERATION?

PRIME MINISTER: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TI WAS ON THAT BORDER OR WHERE IT WAS. THERE WAS SOME TALK.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT MRS. GANDHI'S INTEREST IN CIA ACTIVITY IS SUBSTANTIAL. AMONG THE 19 BOOKS SHE REPORTEDLY READ IN 1974, THREE DEALT WITH OR TOUCHED ON THE CIA. THE PICTURE SHE WOULD HAVE OBTAINED FROM THIS SLEEGTION, THE CIA ACCORDING TO MARCHETTI, MARKS, SAMPSON AND HALBERSTAM WOULD HARDLY BE OBJECTIVE.

3. IF ASKED ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MRS. GANDHI'S INTERVIEW, THE EMBASSY PLANS TO SAY THAT WE DO NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE FOR US TO COMMENT ON AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.
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